

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 14046 021506Z

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INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 14046

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UR, XF

SUBJ: SOVIETS SPEAKING DIRECTLY TO MIDDLE EAST AGAIN

1. AFTER LONG DRY SPELL IN WHICH SOVIET MEDIA TREATMENT OF MIDDLE EAST WAS CONFINED ESSENTIALLY TO REPLAYS OF FOREIGN PRESS, DIRECT PUBLIC COMMENT BEGAN AGAIN OCTOBER 1 (FOLLOWING GROMYKO'S SEPTEMBER 23 UNGA SPEECH) WITH ME PORTIONS OF PODGORNYY SPEECH AT KREMLIN BANQUEST FOR COSTA GOMES, REPRINTED PRAVDA OCTOBER 2, AND IZVESTIYA MONTHLY INTERNATIONAL REVIEW BY COMMENTATOR L. KAMYNIN OCTOBER 1.

2. PODGORNYY'S ME STATEMENT DIFFERS FROM GROMYKO'S IN FIVE RESPECTS:

--TONE IS MORE URGENT. PODGORNYY SAYS "THE INTERESTS OF
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PAGE 02 MOSCOW 14046 021506Z

GENERAL PEACE DICTATE THE SHARPEST NECESSITY OF AN IMMEDIATE AND RADICAL SETTLEMENT OF THE CRISIS SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST WITH THE PARTICIPATION OF ALL INTERESTED PARTIES."

--CRITICISM OF SINAI II, WHILE STILL INDIRECT, IS SHARPER. GROMYKO SAID THAT BASIC PROBLEMS WOULD HAVE TO BE RESOLVED "FREE FROM A CONJUNCTURAL APPROACH AND ADVERTISING," AND THAT THEY HAD NOT BEEN. ACCORDING TO PRAVDA, PODGORNYY STATED THAT "A REAL SETTLEMENT OF THE MIDDLE EAST PROBLEM IS POSSIBLE NOT THROUGH ONE OR ANOTHER SEPARATE, PARTIAL MEASURES BUT THROUGH THE SOLUTION OF BASIC QUESTIONS."

--TREATMENT OF STATEHOOD ISSUES IN LISTING OF SECOND AND THIRD SOVIET "PRINCIPLES" FOR SETTLEMENT IS SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT. ON PALESTINIAN STATE, GROMYKO SPOKE OF "LEGITIMATE RIGHTS OF ARAB PEOPLE OF PALESTINE, INCLUDING ITS RIGHT TO CREATE ITS OWN STATE"; PODGORNYY SPEAKS OF "THE RIGHT TO CREATE AN AUTONOMOUS (SAMOSTAYATELNOYE) PALESTINIAN STATE." ON GUARANTEES FOR ALL PEOPLES OF AREA, GROMYKO SPOKE OF RIGHT OF ALL PEOPLES TO "INDEPENDENT (NEZAVISIMOYE) DEVELOPMENT," PODGORNYY SPEAKS OF "INDEPENDENT EXISTENCE AND DEVELOPMENT."

--UNLIKE GROMYKO, PODGORNYY DOES NOT MENTION GENEVA CONFERENCE.

--AGAIN UNLIKE GROMYKO, HE PUTS MIDDLE EAST IN MEDITERRANEAN CONTEXT: "REALIZATION OF SUCH A SETTLEMENT WOULD BE MOST ADVANTAGEOUS WAY TO EFFECT NORMALIZATION OF SITUATION IN THE WHOLE MEDITERRANEAN BASIN."

3. OPERATIONAL PORTIONS OF IZVESTIYA REVIEW REPLAY GROMYKO LANGUAGE ALMOST LINE BY LINE, BUT ENVELOP IT IN WARNINGS (BASED ON FOREIGN PRESS) THAT ISRAELI ARMS BUILDUP THREATENS ALL ARABS. KAMYNIN CONCLUDES THAT "THE SOVIET UNION UNALTERABLY BUILDS ITS RELATIONS WITH THE ARAB COUNTRIES ON THE PRINCIPLES OF INTERNATIONALISM, SOLIDARITY AND SINCERE FRIENDSHIP." THIS ALSO ECHOES GROMYKO, BUT WITHOUT HIS QUALIFICATIONS ABOUT THE SOVIET UNION DOING "EVERYTHING THAT DEPENDS ON IT" TO STRENGTHEN FRIENDSHIP "WITH ARAB COUNTRIES WHICH DEFEND THEIR JUST CAUSE."

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PAGE 03 MOSCOW 14046 021506Z

4. COMMENT. OMISSION OF GENEVA CONFERENCE BY PODGORNYY PROBABLY HAS NO SPECIAL SIGNIFICANCE AND ADDITION OF MEDITERRANEAN CONTEXT PROBABLY ONLY REFLECTS FACT THAT PODGORNYY WAS TALKING TO COSTA GOMES. KAMYNIN'S UNQUALIFIED PLEDGE OF SOVIET GOOD INTENTIONS TOWARD THE ARABS SEEMS DESIGNED TO SIGNAL PUBLICLY THAT SOVIETS WANT TO REMAIN FRIENDS, DESPITE THE SLINGS AND ARROWS COMING THEIR WAY FROM

SADAT. END COMMENT.
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